#### SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2012 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2012 SOL & JEAN DAVIDOW THEATER

The Salem County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard presented the American Flag in a Color Guard procession. The Vo-Tech ROTC led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by the Star Spangled Banner sung by Amber Vanderslice.

The Presiding Protem asked Rev. Doug Smith to deliver the invocation

Beginning at 5:45 PM, the Oaths of Office were given to the following:

Freeholder Elect: Dale A. Cross was sworn in by Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno.

Freeholder Elect: Robert J. Vanderslice was sworn in by Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno.

Freeholder Elect: Bruce L. Bobbitt was sworn in by Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney.

Earl R. Gage, Presiding Protem, introduced Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno, Congressman Senator Stephen M. Sweeney, and Assemblywoman Celeste M. Riley for opening remarks.

Earl R. Gage, Clerk of the Board/Administrator, Presiding Protem, called the Reorganization Meeting to order.

The Presiding Protem read the roll call and the following Freeholders were present: Freeholders Julie Acton, Benjamin Laury, Dale Cross, Robert Vanderslice, Lee Ware, Bruce Bobbitt, and Beth Timberman

The Presiding Protem read the following Opening Meetings Act statement:

Adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting

- 1. By forwarding notice thereof to Today's Sunbeam and Elmer Times Co.
- 2. By posting notice thereof on the bulletin board in the Salem County Court House and County Administration Building.
- 3. By filing notice there in the Office of the Salem County Clerk and the Clerk of the Board all having been done at least 48 hours in advance.

The Presiding Protem presented the Election Certificates for Freeholders Dale Cross, Robert Vanderslice and Bruce Bobbitt.

The Presiding Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Director. Freeholder Laury nominated Freeholder Acton with Freeholder Cross voicing the second. No other names were nominated. Nominations were closed on motion by Freeholder Laury which was seconded by Freeholder Cross. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of Freeholder Julie A. Acton as Director by a hand vote of 6/0.

Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Julie A. Acton as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Salem County. As the Director's first official duty, she thanked the Board for electing her as Director for the year 2012. The following statement was read by Director Acton:

Good evening...

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Senate President Sweeney, Assemblywoman Celeste Riley, Sheriff Chuck Mill, County Clerk Gilda Gill, Surrogate Nikki Burke, former freeholders,

honored guests; I would like to thank everyone for attending the annual Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders Reorganization meeting.

Congratulations to Freeholders Dale Cross and Bruce Bobbitt for winning re-election.

Welcome Freeholder Bob Vanderslice. I am excited to have on board and look forward to working with you. Thank you Dave Lindenmuth for your years of service on the Freeholder Board. I wish you all the best.

A heartfelt thank you to my family: my Mother, my husband John, and our sons Jonathan and Justin for their continued love and support.

Former Director Ware; thank you for your friendship and leadership.

I am honored and humble that my colleagues have selected me to serve as Director this year. Thank you for your confidence. I look forward to working with this board to improve the quality of life for our residents.

**2012 will be a challenging year for Salem County.** It is time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

The eyes of our constituents are on this new administration, their expectations are understandably high. They will be watching closely, especially during the fires 100 days. First impressions are lasting impressions. WE will work hard to make a positive impact on Salem County.

The focus this evening is, of course, the shift in the majority. After nine years, the Republicans once again maintain the majority of the seats on this freeholder board. And for the first time in nearly a decade will be in a position to effectuate change in our great county. **Gaining majority was just the means, not the objective**. The goal is to bring a better, effective, responsive and efficient government to the citizens of this County. For the last nine years the Republican minority has had the passion, but not the position to enact true change.

Because the people of Salem County deserve to know what is happening with their government, I am proud to announce a major change in the way we conduct county business. This year in addition to our regular Freeholder meetings we, the entire board will meet two hours prior in a public workshop. NO official action ill be taken at these workshop meetings. These workshops will provide a forum for all seven freeholders to review proposals, discuss policy, conduct research and properly plan for the future of Salem County. These meetings will ensure that all freeholders and the public have an opportunity to understand proposals before official action is taken.

Let me be perfectly clear, these meetings are **OPEN** to the public.

Today is just the beginning on the long journey of change. Not change for the sake of change but change that sets this County on the right course. I am honored to serve on a Freeholder Board made up of seven intelligent, caring and dedicated people. My goal as Director is to unite and channel their efforts for you, the people of Salem County. I pledge to work with my colleagues as just that colleagues, not "us" and "them".

As Director I will embrace strategic planning and will incorporate administrative reforms that will enhance the efficiency of county government. I will focus on the needs of the constituency and value the wishes of the taxpayer.

I pledge that we will work to finish a project that was started over a decade ago: **modernizing** the county's emergency services communications system. Our law enforcement personnel and emergency responders deserve a state of the art communication system. They risk their lives every time they receive the call to duty. It is high time we put our first responders at the top of the priority list.

I have always tried my best to treat others with love and respect, to listen to people's concerns and be their voice when their own goes unheeded. I have been told by others that I find time when seemingly none exists. As your Freeholder Director, this will not change. I am still the same Julie Acton, the friend, the neighbor, and servant of and for the people.

In closing, I want to again than everyone for sharing this evening with us. Thank you for your encouragement and continued support. I would like to leave you with this quote from Abraham Lincoln "I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

Good night and may God Bless you and Salem County.

The Presiding Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Deputy Director. Freeholder Cross nominated Freeholder Laury with Freeholder Vanderslice voicing the second. No other names were nominated. Nominations were closed on motion by Freeholder Cross which was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of Freeholder Julie A. Acton as Director by a hand vote of 6/0.

Director Acton asked if there was a waiver of the rules for tonight's meeting. Clerk of the Board Gage stated yes resolution number 5.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury that the Rules of the Board be temporarily waived for resolution number 5 on tonight's agenda. Freeholder Cross seconded his motion, which carried a hand vote of 7/0.

The following proposed Freeholder resolutions were read by the Clerk of the Board.

R. 2012-1

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION SETTING JOB CLASSIFICATION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR 2012

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-2

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES TO GOVERN THE SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2012

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-3

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

## RESOLUTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-4

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ATTORNEY FOR THE OFFICE ON AGING ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his

motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-5

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOND COUNSEL AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 4/3 with Freeholders Ware, Bobbitt and Timberman against.

R. 2012-6

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

# RESOLUTION APPOINTING INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-7

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING AUDITORS AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 4/3 with Freeholders Ware, Bobbitt and Timberman against.

R. 2012-8

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

# RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 4/3 with Freeholders Ware, Bobbitt and Timberman against.

R. 2012-9

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR EMPLOYMENT RELATED MATTERS AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Laury moved to table this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to table the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-10

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNTY ADJUSTER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-11

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-12

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE SUPERVISOR OF VETERANS INTERMENT

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-13

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 6/0/1 with Freeholder Cross abstaining.

R. 2012-14

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-15

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-16

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE SALEM COUNTY 9-1-1 COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-17

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-18 ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PHYSICIAN FOR THE

#### SALEM COUNTY SHERIFF AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-19

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PURCHASING AGENT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved to table this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion.

Freeholder Timberman asked is he certified.

Director Acton responded he going through certification for purchasing and also CFO.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-20

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR 2012 FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-21

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ADMINISTRATOR OF YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-22

ADMINISTRATIVE

# RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-23

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

### RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2012-24 ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL, OFFICE ON AGING

R. 2012-25

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DISABLED

R. 2012-26

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

R. 2012-27

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

R. 2012-28

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE SEARCH COMMITTEE

R. 2012-29

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

R. 2012-30

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION

R. 2012-31

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

R. 2012-32

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2012-33

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE SALEM COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

R. 2012-34

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

#### RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

R. 2012-35

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

1 R. 2012-36

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATHOLOGISTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2012-37

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

R. 2012-38

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

R. 2012-39

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

R. 2012-40

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM TO THE SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

R. 2012-41

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

R. 2012-42

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNTY OF SALEM POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY

R. 2012-43

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN BOARD

R. 2012-44

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY COMMISSION

R. 2012-45 ADMINISTRATIVE

## RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE S ALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

R. 2012-46

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SOUTH JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2012-47

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CASINO REVENUES

R. 2012-48

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY VETERAN CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD

R. 2012-49

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CUMBERLAND/SALEM WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

R. 2012-50

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

R. 2012-51

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

R. 2012-52

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY SHARED SERVICES WORKING GROUP

R. 2012-53

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

FINANCE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A CUSTODIAN OF FUNDS AND THE DEPOSITORIES FOR MUNICIPAL MONEYS, AND AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF FUNDS AT INTEREST FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2012-54

**ADMINISTRATIVE** 

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2012-55

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS

R. 2012-57
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR BANK ACCOUNT

R. 2012-58 ADMINISTRATIVE

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2012 TEMPORARY BUDGET

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion.

Freeholder Timberman stated on resolution number 30 Cultural and Heritage doesn't have a freeholder liaison. Planning Board I don't know if it's been changed I'm not on the Planning Board.

Deputy Director Laury responded that's been changed.

Freeholder Timberman stated Tourism Advisory Council I think Freeholder Ware is first.

Deputy Director Laury responded he is first alternate.

As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Director Acton read the following Committee Assignments:

#### 2012 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

FH Committee	Chairperson	FH 1	FH 2
Administrative	Julie Acton	Robert Vanderslice	Lee Ware
Public Services	Robert Vanderslice	Julie Acton	Bruce Bobbitt
Health Department	Bruce Bobbitt	Dale Cross	Julie Acton
Social Services	Beth Timberman	Bruce Bobbitt	Benjamin Laury
Public Safety	Dale Cross	Robert Vanderslice	Beth Timberman
Transportation, Agriculture & Cultural Affairs	Lee Ware	Beth Timberman	Benjamin Laury
Public Works	Benjamin Laury	Lee Ware	Dale Cross

The following Minority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Timberman:

Happy New Year! Distinguished guests, friends and family, members of the public, and fellow members of the 2012 Salem County Freeholder Board, it is my honor to be giving the Minority Speech for this year's county reorganization meeting. On behalf of the entire Freeholder Board, I would like to thank the elected officials who attended this year's meeting and have sworn in our freeholders and officers. I would also like to thank the clergy who are here, and participating, ROTC Color Guard, the Sheriff's Office Honor

Guard, and Amber Vanderslice, the staff who worked tirelessly to make this evening happen, and SCC for allowing us to once again, hold our annual reorganization meeting here in Davidow Hall.

In assuming our new role as the minority party of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, may I begin by offering our congratulations to Julie Acton, our new director. Julie has been a dedicated member of this Board, and is deserving of this leadership role. We also congratulate Ben Laury in his new role as Deputy Director and Bruce Bobbitt and Dale Cross in their re-election. I also congratulate newcomer Bob Vanderslice in his election to the board.

As we remember the last nine years of Democratic leadership, we would like to be remembered as being "good stewards":

We have been good stewards of the people of Salem County...

The Office of Disability Services was opened under our direction and has proved to be an important public service to thousands of Salem County Citizens. We started a successful annual drive through flu clinic, which provides flu shots free of charge, to any Salem County residents.

We have been good stewards of County property...

Railroad infrastructure, once a forgotten line, became a viable transportation alternative to more expensive trucking for our local businesses who reported that if the railroad were to stop operating, they would likely close down due to severely increased costs. Seeing the possibilities of not only keeping heavy truck traffic off our county roads, but also keeping and expanding businesses along the rail, and eventually the possibility of passenger rail with a tourism angle, the majority made this their priority to find funding during the past nine years. Now, as Salem County gets ready to accept millions of dollars in TIGER III funding, it looks like this initiative will finally pay off and we will see businesses profit as well as the potential growth of new ratable businesses and jobs along the railroad.

The Old Salem County Courthouse saw a major facelift in the past few years as it received funding due to its status as the second oldest continually operating courthouse in the country. Now a showpiece for the county, it is a vibrant anchor to this historic area.

County offices, desperately overcrowded, were declared a necessity by the entire freeholder board, and we are now in the process of renovating an existing building in downtown Salem to accommodate the public service staff that we employ. We saw the opportunity to put people to work again as well as the dire need for staff and citizens to have a safe and viable place to conduct county government work as a win-win situation.

District 3 Legislators established a presence in Salem when they were first elected and have continued to be part of our county by not only having an accessible office here in our county seat, but by being extremely accessible to our citizens and elected officials throughout the county. There is rarely an event that occurs in this county without one or more of our legislators in attendance. We applaud their cooperative spirit and wish to carry on this relationship.

Bridges and roads have been greatly improved in our county in the last nine years due to a cooperative effort on the part of our engineering office and their relationships with the state, SJTPA and other entities. More miles of roads and bridges were repaired as part of the routine schedule than ever before (over 156 miles of roadway). We saw expert and speedy repairs to many roads and bridges after two devastating storms this past summer. Safety was paramount and we recognize these accomplishments.

We have been good stewards financially...

The Democrats took control of County Government in 2003. At that time the tax rate was at .99 cents. During Republican rule it had gone over the 1.00 dollar mark. In 2011 the tax rate had been dropped through hard work and planning to .87 cents.

Tourism was a tremendous boon to an otherwise economically depressed county, and we saw our little county come out of last place for tourism spending and move well up the list in the last few years. Our initiatives saw existing businesses report an increase in traffic and spending in their businesses as well as the start of new businesses in this area. In a state that counts tourism spending as one of the top three economies, Salem County finally could take part in all the success.

Shared Services was an initiative that we introduced in our county before the state made it their initiative as well. Well ahead of the curve, we reported success in a shared 911 system, shared joint courts, incarceration for other counties as well as state and federal prisoners, to name a few. We began researching the feasibility of sharing a juvenile justice facility. And just last week we took a giant step forward by initiating a countywide EMS System. All of these programs had two goals in mind, 1) consolidation where we could in order to save precious taxpayer's money, and 2) better service to all of the citizens of this great County.

Cooperation among the freeholders was perhaps the key point to making all of these things happen as we saw the Democrat majority name a minority member to the Administrative Committee for the first time in county history. A proven leader, our Democrat Director, Lee Ware showed genuine leadership by appointing a Republican to this important committee and allowing transparency to prevail more than ever before.

We would encourage the new majority to continue support for these worthwhile projects.

Our role of being the minority representation on this Board will be a different experience for us. In order to understand this new role, I talked to my father, Benjamin Timberman, who served on this Board for 24 years, 13 years in the majority, and 11 years in the minority. He told me that when we first experience the minority status, we may feel like that "lonely little petunia in the onion patch" but we are not to go around and "cry, cry, cry all day long!" Instead, we are to rededicate ourselves to the purpose of serving Salem County and its people to the best of our abilities. This may include voting for the majority's position if we believe it is in the best interest of Salem County. Conversely, it may mean that if we believe there is a better alternative than the majority's proposal, then we must support our belief. As Plato stated "Your silence gives consent". My challenge to the new minority is not to be silent.

Meeting the challenges that face Salem County requires the best judgment of all seven of its Freeholder members. Together, we can fulfill our common purpose of serving Salem County and its people to the best of our abilities. We look forward to working with the majority party in the year 2012 and for providing success for Salem County. Remember good government is not always the choice with the smallest bottom line, but instead, it means making the choice that is best for the people of Salem County.

May God Bless Salem County. Thank you.

The following Majority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Laury along with a power point presentation:

I would like to extend a warm Salem County welcome to Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. It is truly an honor to have New Jersey's first Lt. Governor administer the oath of office to the first female freeholder director of Salem County.

I would also like to recognize the 3<sup>rd</sup> district legislators in attendance and would like to congratulate them on their recent reelections.

State President Steve Sweeney

Assemblyman John Burzachelli and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley

For ALL those in the audience who have served or who are serving in elected positions would you stand and be recognized. Thank you.

Would the past freeholders please continue to stand? We are honored by the legacy you have passed on to this board and the great County of Salem that you have dedicated part of your lives. God Bless you all.

I would like to continue by thanking David Lindenmuth for his six years of service to this board and the County of Sale.

In addition, as the son of a B24 World War II Pilot, I would like those that are serving or have served in our armed forces to please stand and receive our recognition and our gratitude that you rightly deserve. Thank you.

I have saved my best for last, my wife 33 years, Kathy, my daughter Brittany (who is working this evening and unable to attend), my son TJ, my son-in-law Stan, and my mother Harriet. Without your support and understanding I certainly would not be here tonight. You are the proverbial "wind beneath my wings". Thank you.

Lee, Coach as we pass the baseball on to the next pitcher, we thank you for your many years of service as freeholder director. How many years, six? When I was elected to the freeholder board two years ago, Lee, in a bipartisan fashion, mentored me through the first days on the freeholder board. I can truthfully say, you did your best to be honest and to be fair to everyone. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Julie, we are honored to have you as the next freeholder director. You have definitely earned the position. No one will out work you nor will anyone match transparency you intend for this board. God bless you and may God bless your team of freeholders.

Dale congratulations to you on your re-election for a second term. It has been a pleasure working side by side with you over the past 2 years.

Bob, Welcome on board. I would like to thank you for being the new rookie, relieving me of that title, and the dubious honors that goes along with it.

Just a few Salem County 2011 highlights

From the "100 year" storm and Hurricane Irene we saw over 11 million dollars in damages to roads and bridges. We are well on our way to completing the repairs and if there is a silver lining it is that if Salem County receives the anticipated reimbursement, the total cost of repairs will not be 11 million dollars but less than 3 million dollars.

We also saw the best in Salem County during Hurricane Irene. Our CERT volunteers manned our evacuation centers and provided countless hours attending to those in need. We saw our emergency responders keep us all safe by handling the numerous emergency calls not only throughout the day but throughout the long night as well.

2011 saw the sale of the Salem County Nursing Home by the Salem County Improvement Authority, ending several consecutive years of annual losses of almost 3 million dollars. The net assets from the sale of the nursing home were divided between the Salem County Improvement Authority and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders. We only consider this a highlight because we are no longer saddled with the ongoing losses.

After many agonizing months, we celebrated the announcement that the maternity ward at the Salem Memorial Hospital will remain open and available to our expectant mothers.

Salem County continues to be New Jersey's leader in farmland preservation with more than 27,000 acres preserved. Because of Salem County's leadership role in farmland and

open space preservation, future generations will experience the same quality of living we now enjoy.

We have issued numerous low interest loans to Salem County businesses through our revolving loan fund. This continues to help to maintain our vital small businesses and the jobs they represent.

We have balanced our 2011 budget without layoffs or furlough days. This was done solely with the help and cooperation of our staff and all of our collective bargaining units.

On a more difficult note, Salem County's debt is approaching 60 million dollars. However, the freeholders have ensured through resolution, that some of these bonds will be reduced when our disaster reimbursement funds are received.

And now we look forward to 2012

#### WE WILL BE DOING MORE FOR LESS

As with all our local municipalities, we will need to find ways to maximize the use of our tax dollars. The county and local budgets will be difficult – probably the most difficult to date. Governments must ensure that every possible tax savings is realized and passed along to their constituents. Layoffs and furloughs are the last resort to balancing a budget. This being said, we are proud that our past efforts have allowed us to be the only county in the state not to resort to layoffs or furloughs.

Our first look at the 2012 budget shows about a \$10 million dollar deficit. Balancing the budget will not be easy but we promise to meet that challenge "head on" and produce a balanced budget. We will overcome this deficit and we will make the difficult decisions to meet this goal.

We will be reducing the size of government. We will accomplish this goal by eliminating positions we cannot afford, not staffing unnecessary positions, and by doing a thorough analysis of the salaries associated with necessary positions.

We will be doing strategic planning. We will establish plans to better manage our current and future resources. We will trim down the "management by crisis" mentality.

We will increase our commitment to shared services, not only with other counties but with our own municipalities.

WE WILL WORK ON MAKING SALEM COUNTY A SAFER AND BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RAISE A FAMILY

We anticipate the completion of a county wide emergency communication system, a system that will finally provide quality coverage to the entire county. This is one of our highest priorities, for the increased safety of our law enforcement and our emergency responders.

We will continue exploring the possibility of a county wide EMS department to provide needed support to our current EMS squads. The goal is to ensure quicker response times and provide better access to emergency services.

We will complete the 5<sup>th</sup> street project. When completed, the new county facility will provide the needed administrative space for our county services. This project will return Salem County workers to the County seat and eliminate costly lease payments.

We will finalize the four and a half million dollar Tiger III grant to upgrade a portion of the vital county railroad system which supports Salem County industry. We also are in discussions that could see federal and state funding for the completion of the rail line upgrade.

We will be finalizing a significant "Home Fund" grant application. This program will provide funding to enable residents to remain in their homes instead of nursing homes. These grant funds will provide such items as wheel chair ramps and functional changes in home for the disabled and the elderly.

We will hold our county authorities more accountable for their actions by vetoing their minutes when they are out of line with Salem County objectives. Salem County taxpayers have seen years of independent authorities squandering their budgets on questionable lease payments, programs, and Projects. This must stop.

#### WE WILL BECOME MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE

This year, we will be taking our freeholder meetings to three remote locations Pennsville on March 21<sup>st</sup>
Pittsgrove on July 18<sup>th</sup>
Woodstown on October 17<sup>th</sup>

We will have work sessions open to the public at 5:30 prior to each 7:30 freeholder meeting. If there is a need for a closed administrative meeting it will be attended by a representative of ALL parties.

The 2012 budget will be scrutinized for every possible way to establish a fair and cost effective Salem County Government. We truly look forward to the additional financial expertise that Bob Vanderslice brings to the freeholder board. I will tell you, he started working the budget process within days of his election.

Salem County will evolve. Our county administrator will be stepping down on January 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be welcoming Evern Ford as the new administrator. Evern hails from our own Salem County and has extensive experience in both the public and the private sectors. Evern brings with him many years of experience with the DuPont Company in human resources and currently has his own consulting firm. We look forward to utilizing his skills and ideas.

We are a great freeholder team and I would like to remind all of our team that "Good is the Enemy of Great". We need to keep working at being great, NOT stopping at good.

Thank you all for coming out tonight and supporting Salem County.

And if I may borrow my final words from Red Skelton (those over 50 remember him).

I wish you love and happiness, In everything you do. The time has come to say goodnight, I hope I've made a friend.... And so well say, "May God bless you, Until we meet again."

#### Other Business

Freeholder Cross read the following statement:

First, let me thank the Honorable Kim Guadagno for sharing our special evening with us, it is greatly appreciated and we're honored that you would take the time given your busy schedule. To our Third District Legislators; Senate President Sweeney, Assemblyman Burzichelli and Assemblywoman Riley... congratulations and we look forward to continuing our working relationships with those in Trenton. I would also like to congratulate Freeholder Bobbitt and on his re-election.

Thank you to Salem Community College and Interim President Joan Baillie for being very gracious hosts for this evening's event and to those in the audience for taking time out of your busy schedules as well, your support is why we are seated here.

I would like to thank my two running mates, Bob Vanderslice and Gwyn Parris-Atwell. Without their motivation and relentless effort I would not be before you this evening. During the course of a campaign, you find out a lot about 'the person' and although somewhat bittersweet in the end, I take solace in the fact that our future (and yours) is in good hands.

As they say, behind every elected official is a supportive spouse and family. I need to thank my beautiful wife Kathy and my son Kyle, for their ability to make sacrifices allows me the ability to serve. To my father Stewart, a proud Korean War veteran, my siblings, extended family and dear friends, another heartfelt "thank you" for your unwavering support of not only me, but my efforts as well. To my beloved mother and daughter, I'll trust you are smiling.

For those that voted for me, I will work hard to make you proud of your selection. For those that did not, I hope my hard work and respect for the office and its residents eventually earns your trust.

As an unknown author once said, "a bend in the road is not the end of the road... unless you fail to make the turn."

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this group of Freeholders, our hard working support staff and the dedicated employees of Salem County in an effort to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. I am fully aware that it will not be easy, difficult decisions will have to be made in order to move us forward.

Thank you and God Bless...

Freeholder Vanderslice thanked Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblywomen Celeste Riley and everyone for attending and thanked his family for all of their love and continued support.

Director Acton, asked Reverend Dr. H. Holland Fields, Jr. to deliver the benediction.

Director Acton thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Freeholder Cross. On roll call, the motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Earl R. Gage Clerk of the Board